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New Employment Centers open in Roy and Woods Cross



Bob Gross, DWS, Executive Director (with scissors), with DWS staff and the Davis Chamber of Commerce Lakesiders at the opening ceremony of the South Davis EC in Woods Cross.



The front entrance to the new open-for-business Roy Employment Center.

The Department of Workforce Services (DWS) has opened two new Employment Centers (EC) in the North Region to better serve employers and job seekers. The new office in Roy will serve the south end of Weber and north end of Davis counties, while the new South Davis EC marks the first employment center in the south Davis county area in more than twenty years. The South Davis EC, located at 763 West 700 South in Woods Cross, opened on December 7, 2001. The Roy EC, located at 1951 West 5400 South in Roy, celebrated its opening on January 7, 2002.

The Roy and South Davis ECs are "one-stop employment centers" that offer an array of support services for employers, job seekers, and individuals seeking supportive financial, medical, food stamp, and child care assistance.

For employers, the new centers offer large and small conference rooms available for use in recruiting and training employees. Other services available include job fairs, labor market information and seminars on a variety of business topics. In addition, clerical skills testing is available including type tests, 10-key tests, and software application tests such as Microsoft Word and Excel, and WordPerfect.

Job seekers will find twenty-three new computers in the Job Connection Room to search Utah's Job Bank, America's Workforce Network and other internet sites for job openings, to write resumes, cover letters, and to access labor market information. Additionally, job seekers can register for employment-related workshops to assist them with obtaining employ-

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Governor Michael O.
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Department of Workforce Services

North Region
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Bob Gross Resigns from Workforce Services

Bob Gross, the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS), resigned his position effective March 1, 2002. Bob has announced he will be a candidate for Utah's first congressional district seat vacated by the retiring Jim Hansen.

In a message to DWS employees, Bob said the decision was a difficult and painful one. "This has been an especially painful decision for me personally. Serving as the Executive Director of DWS has been, for me personally, a labor of love during the past six years (including the nearly five years of our actual operation). I have come to regard so many of you as deep and sincere personal friends. The thoughts of leaving you for a new personal endeavor have been very, very sad and difficult!"

Bob also said he leaves the department in capable hands. "I leave you with what I think and hope you agree, is an outstanding Senior Management Team. With the recent additions of Blaine Crawford as Deputy Director, John Nixon as Finance Director, Tani Downing as head of Adjudication, Kevin Beutler in Human Resources, Greg Gardner in Workforce Information Technology, Chris Love in Unemployment Insurance, and the promotion of Jim Finch as our other Deputy Director, we have strengthened and added to the other outstanding division heads and Regional Directors already in place. Our employee representatives on the Senior Management Team, both past and present, have offered remarkable leadership and employee input to the decisions that the SMT undertakes."

"May I wish each and every one of you the fondest of farewells! A part of my heart will always remain here with you and at DWS. I extend to each of you my best wishes and my best wishes for DWS. You and this department have been my labor of love. God bless you!"

Announcement

Greg Gardner has been appointed by the Governor to serve as Interim Executive Director. Greg Gardner has been with the department since its inception and has many years of experience administering the state's employment and job training programs. He also has the knowledge necessary to keep the department moving forward until a new executive director is named. The selection process is expected to be completed by early April 2002.

TrendLines Magazine Keeps You Up to Speed

By **Connie Blaine**
Workforce Information Coordinator

TrendLines magazine, the newest labor market information product from Workforce Information, has made a big splash in just three issues. Employers, consumers and DWS employees are discovering this great source of economic news, written in plain English.

Our economists, and the guest writers who contribute feature articles to **TrendLines**, lend their expertise to help you make sense of these trying economic times. They condense and interpret the blizzard of economic data out there into easy-to-understand articles and graphs, so you don't have to be an economist to stay well-informed on the economy.

TrendLines' articles are short and to the point, offering the most essential news about the local, state and national economies. Most items also link to websites that provide additional information for those wanting to know more about the topic.

The bi-monthly **TrendLines** magazine is usually posted on the Web at least two weeks sooner than it is available in print. Click on "Economic Information," from the DWS home page (jobs.utah.gov). There you will also find "**TrendLines Extra**" - a weekly bulletin (updated each Monday) on economic news between regular **TrendLines** issues.

Never miss an issue! Subscribe to **TrendLines**, either in print, or electronically. Contact Workforce Information at (801) 526-9786. Become a regular reader of both **TrendLines** and **TrendLines Extra**, and you'll astonish others with your economic knowledge!

Smart business people know where to find the latest, most accurate information available about economic trends, the labor market, cost of living and industry trends. There's county-level economic information too, and it's all free and up-to-date on the DWS Economic Information web site: jobs.utah.gov



EMPLOYER CONFERENCE

***"Economic Realities
and the Workplace."***

4 April 2002

**South Towne Expo Center
9575 South State Street**

On Thursday, 4 April 2002, the Department of Workforce Services, along with several public and private sponsors, will host the fourth annual **Utah Employer Conference**. The purpose of the Utah Employer Conference is to provide businesses, both large and small, topical information as well as innovative solutions to the myriad of complex problems that surface on a daily basis. The theme this year is: "Economic Realities and the Workplace."

The Utah Employer Conference will be held at the South Towne Exposition Center in Sandy. The Governor has been invited to address the attendees and comment on the state of the state and its economy. Also, the Department of Workforce Services will release its much sought after Utah wage data. And, the most family-friendly employers will be announced and recognized for the fourth annual Work/Life Awards.

The keynote speaker will be nationally renowned economics and business writer and contributing editor of *Newsweek*, **Rich Thomas**. Mr. Thomas has written and contributed to scores of cover stories on economic developments in the U.S. and abroad.

Topics covered this year during the breakout sessions may include the following:

- Cultural integration and the bottom line
- Economic forecast
- Effective mediation
- Employment law update
- Women in the workplace
- Work/Life practices
- Workplace realities
- UWORKS unveiled
- ... and more!

The price to attend the Utah Employer Conference is \$65.00 per person. For information, or to register with your MasterCard or Visa, call (888) 920-WORK (9675).

New Web Features Coming for UI Employers

Be on the lookout for your April issue of the *Employer Advisor* newsletter featuring exciting new web capabilities for Utah's UI tax paying employers. The *Employer Advisor* will be enclosed with your quarterly report forms.

KUDOS

To Cathy Carey and Tracy Harris-Belnap:

"Thank you very much for providing such powerful classes for us. I feel charged up to tackle my life during this depressing time of unemployment. I also appreciate the Utah Department of Workforce Services for providing these fantastic, informative classes."

Yuri Bennett

About Gerald Gappmayer:

"I just wanted to praise your workers in the Blanding office. I am a single mother with three children. I went in to your offices there in Blanding expecting to get the run around. I was surprised with the respectful and courteous assistance given to me by the case worker. I was very grateful for the help he gave me, if all your workers are like him, you have a great staff."

unsigned

About Jackie Christiansen:

"[She] really cares about me and she really helped me realize that I was somebody, and not just another case number, by demonstrating her memorable compassion towards me. I really can't put into words my gratitude and appreciation towards her. She really cares about her clients."

unsigned

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North Region

New Centers (continued from page 1)

ment and job retention. The centers also provide job seekers access to telephones, fax machines, and copy machines. All these services are provided at no charge.

The Roy EC will feature a "drop-in child care" that customers can use while meeting with an employment counselor. Veteran's services are also available in this office.

"The DWS new Roy Employment Center provides an opportunity to conveniently serve employers and job seekers in the southern end of Weber county and the northern tip of Davis county," says Greg Paras, manager of the new center. "We invite everyone to visit the Roy EC and we look forward to assisting customers with their employment activities."

"Davis County is a large area," says Kathy Leiker, the South Davis EC Manager, "and it's hard for some of our customers to get up to Clearfield. This will help improve our customer service and better meet the needs of South Davis employers."

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